

**To:** Albright, David[Albright.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rubin, Howard E  
**Sent:** Fri 7/22/2016 4:25:51 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Information for Prep Meeting in advance of Briefing Call for Sen. Feinstein's Staff

This just come in.

**From:** Davis, CatherineM  
**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2016 12:25 PM  
**To:** Grevatt, Peter <Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov>; Albright, David <Albright.David@epa.gov>  
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**Subject:** Information for Prep Meeting in advance of Briefing Call for Sen. Feinstein's Staff

Here's the background on this request for a briefing from Sen. Feinstein's staff.

Rachel Carr, AAAS fellow on Sen. Feinstein's staff, originally asked about the NRDC petition for a rulemaking on aquifer exemptions:  
[https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/wat\\_16032201a.pdf](https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/wat_16032201a.pdf), and we provided the following answer:

EPA provided an initial response to the NRDC petition on aquifer exemptions on May 5, 2016. EPA also recently met with the petitioners on June 30, 2016, to better understand the basis of the petitioners' concerns, identify the highest priority issues from their perspective, and provide a high level update on the agency's current work on aquifer exemptions. In EPA's initial response we shared with petitioners some of the actions the agency has taken and plans to take in the near future to improve the aquifer exemption process and better protect underground sources of drinking water under SDWA. The response also tentatively denied a moratorium on any new or expanded exemptions until revisions to the regulations are finalized and the treatment of the petition as a comment on all pending and future exemption applications.

In response, she asked for a briefing on the agency's ongoing work on aquifer exemptions for herself and two additional staffers, Trevor Higgins and Kenneth Rooney, who are the permanent staffers there on energy, natural resources, and water issues. This is the briefing call that is scheduled for Monday.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I look forward to our prep call in about 35 minutes.

Regards,

Cathy Davis

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